

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**PROPOSED**

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**AND**

**FINAL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE**  
**BELLE FOURCHE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**JUNE 2015**

# **South Dakota Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement**

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Draft ( ) Final ( X )

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: South Dakota

**Abstract:** This Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) describes and analyzes alternatives for the planning and management of public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), South Dakota Field Office. The planning area for the South Dakota Field Office and this Proposed RMP/Final EIS covers the entire state of South Dakota, which includes approximately 49.3 million acres. Within the planning area, the BLM administers about 274,000 acres of public land surface estate. The majority of BLM-administered surface estate is located in Harding, Butte, Lawrence, Pennington, Custer, Fall River, Perkins, Meade, Ziebach, and Jackson counties. The BLM manages approximately 1.7 million acres of federal mineral estate in 37 counties in South Dakota. Over 99 percent of the BLM-administered surface and mineral estate in the planning area is located in western South Dakota.

The South Dakota Proposed RMP/Final EIS would revise the South Dakota RMP (1986), Miles City Oil and Gas EIS (1994), and the Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC Plan (1996.)

As part of the RMP revision process, the BLM conducted scoping to solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts and addressed them in the Draft RMP/EIS. Planning issues identified for this RMP/EIS include energy development, vegetation management, wildlife and special status species habitat, travel management and access, commercial uses, visual resource management, and climate change. The Draft RMP/EIS was released for public comment on June 14, 2013. BLM used the comments that were received on the Draft RMP/EIS to develop the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS considers four alternatives. Alternative A is a continuation of current management (No Action Alternative). Under this alternative, use of public lands and resources would continue to be managed under the existing management plans and guidance. Alternative B emphasizes resource development, while limiting protective management of resources. Alternative C emphasizes the greatest protection of resources, while still providing for use of resources. Alternative D is the BLM's Proposed Plan and reflects the best combination of actions to achieve BLM goals and policies, meets the purpose and need, addresses the key planning issues, and considers the recommendations of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists.

When completed, the Record of Decision for the RMP will provide comprehensive, long-range decisions for (1) managing resources in the South Dakota Field Office; and (2) identifying allowable uses on the BLM-administered surface land and mineral estate. Protests on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS must be received within 30 days following the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability for this Proposed RMP/Final EIS in the *Federal Register*.

All protests must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

***Regular Mail:***

Director (210)  
Attn: Protest Coordinator  
P.O. Box 71383

***Overnight Delivery:***

Director (210)  
Attn: Protest Coordinator  
20 M Street SE, Room 2134LM

Washington, D.C. 20024-1383

Washington, D.C. 20003

Emailed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular mail or overnight delivery postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the emailed protest as an advance copy and will afford it full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct emailed protests to: [protest@blm.gov](mailto:protest@blm.gov). **Additional details about filing protests can be found in the Dear Reader letter which is included at the beginning of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.**

Questions should be directed to: Mitch Iverson, RMP Project Manager, BLM South Dakota Field Office, 310 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. Questions can also be submitted via email to [BLM\\_MT\\_South\\_Dakota\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_MT_South_Dakota_RMP@blm.gov).